

Remarks

Claims 1-4, 6-12, 15-24 are pending. Claims 1-4, 6-12, 15-21 and 23 stand withdrawn. Applicants point out that claims 18-21 and 23 refer to non-elected species. The Examiner is therefore requested to examine claims 18-21 and 23 upon reconsideration of the rejected claims. Claims 5 and 13 have been amended. A Request for Continued Examination is submitted herewith.

Claims 5 and 13 stand rejected based on the contention that they fail to comply with the written description requirement. While Applicants respectfully disagree that the claims do not comply with the written description requirement, solely in order to move this application towards allowance, Applicants have herewith amended the claims to cancel reference to enzymes having equal substrate specificity (DPIV-analogous activity and APN analogous activity). It is therefore believed the rejection has been overcome. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider and remove the stated rejection.

Rejections - 35 USC 102(b)

Claims 5, 13, 22 and 24 stand rejected over Ansonge (WO 02/053170) based on the contention that this reference anticipates the instant claims.

In response, Applicants point out that the present claims are distinct from the reference of Ansonge because, in the instant case, the claims specify that the inhibitors are administered to an individual in need of the recited therapy. In this regard, Applicants respectfully point out that arteriosclerosis is an inflammatory disease, but is not a dermatological disease, and is not caused by a proliferation of fibroblasts. Further, in connection with the cited reference of Ansonge et al., Applicants refer to its U.S. counterpart, which is U.S. Patent No. 7,229,969. As can be in Table 1 of the 7,229,969 patent, the dermatological diseases disclosed in this reference relate to hyperproliferation of keratinocytes, for example inflammatory and non-inflammatory epidermal hyperproliferation conditions like psoriasis as well as benign and malign epidermal clonal expansion like warts, and benign and malign hyperproliferation conditions like keratosis follicularis. However, the dermatological diseases disclosed in the 7,229,969 patent are distinct from diseases caused by a hyperproliferation of fibroblasts, namely hypertrophic scars, keloids, scleroderma, etc., which are caused by hyperproliferation and changed differentiation states of fibroblasts. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit the 7,229,969 patent does not disclose

administering the inhibitors individuals in need of the presently recited therapy, and thus does not anticipate the claims as amended herewith. The Examiner is therefore respectfully requested to remove the stated rejection and allow the claims.

Applicants request a two-month extension of time to file this response. Any fees due may be charged (or any overpayment credited) to Deposit Account no. 08-2442. A Request for Continued Examination is being filed concurrently with this paper.

Respectfully submitted,

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